

Erangi Heenkenda
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1. EDUCATION

- **MSc in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences**, University of Florida, USA, 2017.
GPA 4.00/4.00; Research projects: Genetic and phenotypic identification of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and their hybrids, Cryopreservation profile of *Mercenaria mercenaria* sperm)
- **BSc (Special) First Class Hons.** in Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, 2013. **GPA 3.81/4.00;**
Specialized in Fisheries and Aquaculture/Limnology & Oceanography
Research Project: Identification of Fish Ichthyoplankton to Identify Suitable Species for Mariculture

2. AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Frederick N. Andrews Fellowship** of Purdue University for PhD studies (2019)
- **AHEAD (Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development), World Bank scholarship** for pursuing PhD studies (2019)
- **Fulbright Masters scholarship** for post graduate studies at University of Florida, USA (2015-2017)
- **National Shellfish Association travel grant** - NSA meeting, Tennessee, USA, 2017
- **Graduate Student Council Travel Award**, University of Florida, March, 2017
- **Scarborough-Maud Fraser Award** at 22nd Annual International Centre Award Ceremony, University of Florida, 15th November 2016
- Nominated for the **Outstanding Student Award** by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Florida, November 2016
- **American Fisheries Society Travel Grant** - Florida Chapter annual conference, Haines City, Florida, 2-4 March 2016
- Representative to **U.S. Politics and Elections: Democracy in Action Seminar** by Fulbright, in Atlanta, GA, February 4-7, 2016
- **Selected to participate Our Ocean Conference** hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington D.C-September 16, 2016 and **Our Ocean One Future Leadership Summit** at Georgetown University-September 2016
- **Certificate of Outstanding Academic achievement** from International Centre of

- the University of Florida for achieving and maintaining a GPA of 4.0 in 2015
- Selected as an emerging expertise to participate **CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Regional workshop** to facilitate Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in North-East Indian Ocean Region, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2015
 - Ruhuna University (Sri Lanka) **Vice chancellor's Gold Medal** for the best student in Academic, Sports and other Extracurricular and Co-Curricular activities, 2014
 - Ruhuna University, **Dean's award**, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology for the **outstanding 4th year undergraduate student**, 2013
 - Selected to represent Sri Lanka at the **18th world youth and student festival in Quito, Ecuador**, December 2013.

3. PUBLICATIONS

- Heenkenda, E.J. (2017). Genetic and phenotypic identification of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and their hybrids (Unpublished **master's thesis**). University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA.
- Heenkenda, E.J. (2013). Marine Ichthyoplankton off southern Sri Lanka: Species, Abundance and Possibility of using for Mariculture (Unpublished **Bachelors thesis**). University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.
- Heenkenda, E.J. And Yang H. (in-prep) Genetic and phenotypic identification of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and their hybrids. Journal of Shellfish Research

4. ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Analysing the research pathway of the cryopreservation for a new species; hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*. 2018 - "Blue economy through clean seas", Marine Environmental Protection Authority Symposium on Marine Environment, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 22 October 2018 (Oral presentation)
- Yang, H., Simon, N. and Heenkenda, E.J., Initiation of a Tetraploid Production Program for Oyster Industry. Florida Sea Grant Coastal Symposium, September 2017 (Poster presentation)
- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Protocol Development for Sperm Cryopreservation in the hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria* – 2017 National Shellfish Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee, 26-30 March 2017 (Oral presentation)

- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Sperm Cryopreservation of the hard clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria* - Spring 2017 FAS Grad Student Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville ,FL (Oral presentation)
- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Development of Effective Method for Recognition of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and Their Hybrids for Clam Breeding and Aquaculture - American Fisheries Society, Florida Chapter Annual Meeting – Haines City, Florida, 2-4 March,2016 (Poster presentation)
- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Assessment of genetic diversity of *Mercenaria mercenaria* from different geographic locations Spring 2016 FAS Grad Student Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 16 March 2016(Poster presentation)
- Heenkenda, E.J. and Yang, H. Identification of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and Their Hybrids for Clam Breeding to Increase Seafood Production -Water for Food conference, Water for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska, May,2016(Poster presentation)
- Heenkenda, E.J. and Cumararatunga, P.R.T. Marine Ichthyoplankton off southern Sri Lanka: Species, Abundance and Possibility of using for Mariculture ,Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (SLASS), December 2014(Oral presentation)
- Fulbright Pechakucha presentation on “How to select Fresh fish” on 9th February 2017 at the University of Florida (Oral presentation)
- Selected as a Fulbright Advisor and did a Presentation on “Being an Ambassador for your Culture “at Miami Dade Collage, August,2016(Oral presentation)

5. TRAINING

- Technical training on Cryopreservation of fish and shellfish sperms at Louisiana State University, 2016.
- Laboratory training on conservative genetics at Austin Lab, Wildlife ecology and Conservation, University of Florida,2016
- Clam and Oyster Hatchery visits and field visits to Cedar key and Apalachicola, Florida, 2015/2016

- 3-month Industrial Training at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic resources, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka, February 2014
- Field training on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Conservation Department, Sri Lanka, 2013.
- Fish Processing and Post-Harvest technology and HACCP, Alpex Marine (pvt) Ltd and Tropic Frozen Foods (pvt) Ltd. 2013.
- Training on food fish culture NAQDA (National Aquaculture Development Agency) –Food Fish Breeding Centre, Udawalwa,2013
- Water treatment - Board of Investment- Biyagama, MAS fabric holding company limited- Thulhiriya and Malimbada drinking water treatment plant
- Leadership workshop for Captains, university Physical Education Unit, April 2010

6. RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- Genetics, evolution, Whole genome sequencing and Bioinformatic analysis
- Cryopreservation techniques for Oyster and clam sperms
- Genetic diversity assessment of Clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria* ITS length polymorphism analysis for Identification of *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria campechiensis* and Their Hybrids (Include DNA extraction, RFLP-PCR, Gel electrophoresis and other related genetic techniques)
- Spawning of calms, stripping of oysters for sperm sampling and other related pre-set ups for the experiments
- Flow cytometry for ploidy analysis
- Marine Ichthyoplankton sampling, identification using guides and basic skills related to the Marine Ichthyoplankton surveys
- Small scale laboratory practical experiences on food processing, fish parasitic and pathological surveys, feeding and nutrition, reproductive biology, fish histology, fish physiology, ecological surveys on coastal and freshwater ecosystems as an undergraduate student

7. VOLUNTEERING

- Fish talk, a demonstration with live fish for school kids at “**Fishing for Success**” Program at University of Florida
- Judge for “**Florida 4-H Demonstrations or Illustrated talks**”, July 25th,2016
- laboratory preparations and in **lab talks** for high school student group for the program organized by **FYI (Florida Youth Institution)**, July 12th,2016
- Volunteered at San Francisco homeless shelter, August,2016

- **Oyster Restoration program** at Chesapeake Bay, Maryland, September 17
- **Cedar Key sea food festival**, October 2015 and October 2016
- Arrangements at **American Fisheries Society, Florida Chapter Annual Meeting**, Haines City, 2016
- **Help Farmers at Cedar Key while Clam spawns**, July-September 2016
- Worked as a **facilitator in a whale watching boat** while engaged in sampling of undergraduate project on Marine Ichthyoplankton, Mirissa, Sri Lanka
- Arrangements of exhibitions for school children and public on Fisheries and aquaculture at the faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka as an academic member
- Beach Clean-ups in Sri Lanka, 2006-2014

8. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

8.1 AT UNIVERSITY

SPORTS

- University colors for Elle (2nd runner-up Sri Lanka University Games)
- Best Basketball Player, 2010
- Represented Ruhuna University teams; Netball, Volley ball, Elle, Basketball, Hockey
- Represented Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences teams; Netball, Volley ball, Elle, Basketball, Hockey, Carom, Table tennis, Chess, Badminton, Relay
- Champions in inter faculty hockey at University of Ruhuna, 2012, 2013
- Best sports woman at Ruhuna University batch meet 2013

OTHER

- "Orator of the year" University of Ruhuna (2012) in Sinhala medium
- Final 12 contestants -Best television announcer "Kavitha"
- Compeering and drama competitions at Ruhuna University

8.2 AT SCHOOL

- Participation for all island netball championships (2001-2005) and provincial netball championships
- All island participation for athletics (100m, 200, 100x4m, long jump, shot put)
- Won National level essay competitions
- Provincial first places in Sinhala literacy competitions
- All island places in girl guide hikes

- Won places in creative writing, script writing and dictation at school English day programs
- Received sports championships under 11, 13 and 15
- Drama competitions; (awards: best actress and best make-up artist)
- Placements at art competitions
- Placements at Dhamma school competitions

9. POSITIONS HELD

9.1 AT UNIVERSITY

- Mentor of students (Since January 2018 to date)
- Member of the Students United in the Research of Fisheries(SURF) (University of Florida) August,2015-2017)
- **Junior student counsellor** as an academic member of the Faculty of Fisheries & Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna (2015)
- Member of the sports advisory board, University of Ruhuna,2015,2018
- **President**, Soft Skills Society, Faculty of Fisheries & Marine Sciences
- **Editor**, Student Union, Faculty of Fisheries & Marine Sciences & Technology and **Editor**, University Sports Council.
- **Captain**, Netball Team, University of Ruhuna and **Sports Captain**, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

9.2 AT SCHOOL

- Head perfect of the science section (2006)
- Captain of the school net ball team (2000-2005) and volleyball team (2002)
- Girl guide
- President of the Sinhala literacy association and Secretary of the English literacy association
- A member of the interact club, drama association, Debating team

10. TEACHING

- Supportive Teaching Assistant for Conservation Genetics module offered by Department of Forestry and Natural Resources At Purdue University,2020
- Work as a Lecturer in the department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka; courses taught - Fish pathology and

Parasitology, Fish behavior: Migration, Capture fisheries, Fish Histology and genetics, Fish and Shellfish biology, Molluscan propagation, Molluscan aquaculture

- Worked as a demonstrator at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Ruhuna; preparation of undergraduate practical classes, instructing at laboratory and field practical classes

13. SUPERVISING STUDENT PROJECTS

Work as a co-supervisor to following projects of undergraduate students,

1. Microplastics in Cultured Oysters in Kalpitiya Lagoon, Sri Lanka
2. Effect of Partial Replacement of fish meal by Dietary Carbohydrate of Growth Performances in Tilapia